



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

ONE Voice

Outreach, News, and Events

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge / Lower Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office

June 2017

Iroquois NWR Hosts Annual Kids Fishing Derby for National Fishing & Boating Week (June 3):

This year Iroquois NWR held its 26th annual Youth Fishing Derby at Ringneck Marsh. The beautiful weather helped welcome around 90 people to the event. Age groups were broken into three categories; 7 and under, 8-12 and 13-17. The first, second and third place winners in each category all went home with prizes, trophies and certificates. Some of the biggest fish caught were an 10.5" Common Carp and a 10.25" Catfish. Every child who came out to fish with us received a gift of their choosing. Brent Long, professional angler with the Futre Angler Association, came out to the event this year and helped children cast while giving away fishing poles and lures. Although the fish weren't readily biting, the young anglers persevered through the whole event. Congratulations to all the winners, we hope to see all our young outdoors men and women again next year. (Contact: Emma Miller)



Connecting with Kids at Niagara County Field Days (June 6): It was a cool and off-and-on rainy day at Royalton Ravine Park in Gasport, NY for the Niagara County Field Days. Despite the weather, kids enjoyed examining live and preserved aquatic macroinvertebrates and learning about their importance in the aquatic ecosystem. A total of 98 students from several County schools attended the event and visited the USFWS booth. (Contact: Betsy Trometer)

Lower Great Lakes FWCO Hosts International Meeting on Lake Ontario (June 6-7): Lower Great Lakes FWCO hosted the annual Lower Great Lakes Lake Trout Management meeting on June 6. Key discussion topics included results of Lake Trout restoration efforts, updates on new projects, recommendations for future management strategies and decisions, and Sea Lamprey management. The Northeast Fishery Center also attended, and shared progress on Cisco culture for stocking into Lake Ontario, and ongoing Lake Trout genetic assessments. The meeting was attended by agency staff from several states, Tribes, and Canadian agencies. (Contact: Dr. Dimitry Gorsky)



Keeping an Eye on Our Black Terns (June): The black tern is a small graceful waterbird that can be seen flying low over the marshes of Iroquois NWR in search of insects or small fish. Although it is an endangered species in New York, black terns can almost always be seen from Cayuga Overlook during their summer breeding season. One of the most interesting things about these birds is that they are semi-colonial nesters, meaning that they nest in loose groups. Apparently, they are firm believers in the old adage, "safety in numbers."

Every three years the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation counts nesting black terns wherever they breed throughout the State. The Tonawanda-Iroquois-Oak Orchard complex has traditionally been one of these breeding areas. In fact, the complex usually has the most breeding black terns in the state outside of their core nesting area in Jefferson County. This year, Refuge and DEC staff as well as several volunteers participated in the black tern survey. Forty-four terns were counted on Iroquois and another 31 were counted on Tonawanda WMA, bringing the complex total to 75 birds for this year's survey. That total is slightly more than the number of birds that were counted here during the 2014 survey, but still about on par with the counts from other previous

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<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/iroquois/>
<https://www.facebook.com/IroquoisNationalWildlifeRefuge>

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<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/lowergreatlakes/>
<https://www.facebook.com/LGLFWCO>

surveys. These results suggest that black terns continue to successfully nest on the refuge and state management areas.

Terns can be seen on the refuge throughout the summer until mid-August, when they will head for warmer weather to spend the winter off the coast of Central and South America. After that we will anxiously await their return next spring when we will once again enjoy the sight of these agile fliers darting back and forth over the Refuge marshes looking for an easy meal and a good place to build their nest among their friends. (Contact: Paul Hess)

Newfane Environmental Field Days (June 13): The Newfane Environmental Field Day was on Tuesday, June 13 from 9am-1:30pm at Fisherman's Park. The day started off cloudy with a strong chance of rain, but it only sprinkled during the lunch break thankfully! There were ten groups of around 15 students that visited the USFWS table displaying mammal furs, skulls, tracks and scat. The students learned a lot and enjoyed the opportunity to feel the animal furs. (Contact: Emma Miller)



Urban Pollinator Gardening with 5th Graders from Elmwood Village Charter School (June 14): The students had a fun day at Silo City learning about the history of the grain elevators in Buffalo, touring a composting facility and tending the pollinator garden. They planted milkweed seedlings which they had grown in their classrooms a month earlier, and helped weed and mulch in the pollinator garden. They loved finding worms in the compost pile and transferred some to the garden. (Contact: Betsy Trometer)

Students, Nature and Photography (SNAP!) Program Reaches over 160 Children (June): The Lower Great Lakes FWCO and Iroquois NWR worked with 9 third grade classes from Meadow Elementary and Ohio Street Elementary in North Tonawanda City School District. In addition to experiencing nature photography at their local city park using a scavenger hunt, students learned about local aquatic macroinvertebrates and mammals. (Contact: Denise Clay)

Fisheries Office Co-Hosts Urban Environmental Festival (June 17): On Saturday, June 17, the Lower Great Lakes FWCO co-hosted with its friends group, The Great Lakes Experience, the City of Dunkirk's fourth Great Lakes Experience Festival. Warm weather welcomed about 750 visitors from the Chautauqua County area who enjoyed over 40 local and environmental exhibitors, hands-on activities, live animal displays, and lots of fun! (Contact: Denise Clay)



Joining Forces with Seneca Park Zoo for "Wildlife on the Edge" (June 18): On June 18th, the Lower Great Lakes FWCO participated in Seneca Park Zoo's (Rochester, NY) 'Wildlife on the Edge' day. This education event highlighted ways in which humans come in contact with wildlife and their habitats through every day activities. We highlighted how people can spread aquatic invasive species during their recreational activities such as fishing and boating. Many people were interested in the water chestnut seed and zebra mussel specimens on display. (Contact: Heidi Himes)



Annual Western New York Veterans Fishing Day Held at Iroquois NWR (June 24): The Lower Great Lakes FWCO, in partnership with the Iroquois NWR, Veterans One-stop Center of WNY, Inc. (VOC) and the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program hosted a Veteran's Fishing Day at the refuge for veterans and their families on Saturday, June 24th. Over 130 participants enjoyed open fishing and other activities such as archery, face painting, demonstrations in fly tying by a Project Healing Waters, and reel fishing by Brent Long, Future Anglers Foundation. This event is the beginning of an annual event serving veterans throughout western New York. (Contact: Denise Clay)